

REMARKS

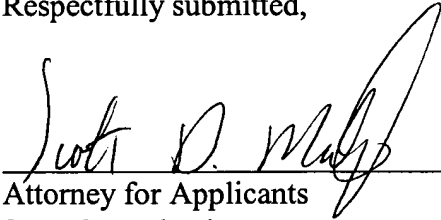
Claims 14-17 and 19-23 are presented for consideration, with claims 14 and 20 being independent.

All of the claims currently stand rejected on obviousness-type double patenting grounds as allegedly being unpatentable over selected claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,317,479, either taken alone (claims 14 and 19-23) or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,570,405 (claims 15-17).

Without conceding the propriety of the double patenting rejection, Applicants are submitting concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer . Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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